(d) whether it is also a fact that complaints were made for scarcity of essential commodities in the State by any group or organisation to the Central Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) The present monthly allotment of rice to Nagaland is 9,000 MTs, which is considered to be adequate to meet the PDS requirements of the State.

(b) and (c) The responsibility of enforcement and distribution of essential items is that of the concerned State Government. In view of this, all the State and U.T. Administrations have been advised by the Central Government, from time to time, to strengthen their monitoring arrangements and intensify their enforcement efforts, to ensure that these items reach the people for whom they are meant.

(d) In the North Eastern region including Nagaland, supply of essential commodities, at times, gets disrupted due to floods, bandhs, movement constraints etc. To tackle the peculiar problems of this area, close monitoring of Supplies of essential commodities is done by the Central as well State Govts., and corrective measures are taken whenever required.

No complaint regarding scarcity of essential commodities in the State has been received by the Department of Civil Supplies, from any Group or Organisation in the recent past.

Coca Cola in the country

1262. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state whether Government propose to allow "Coca-Cola" or any other soft drink with foreign collaboration into the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): No proposal for the manufacture of "Coca-Cola" is under consideration of the Government. The proposal of M/s Punjab Agro Industries Corporation for the manufacture of various processed foods and soft drink concentrates in collaboration with M/s Pepsico Incorporated of U.S.A. is still under the consideration of the Government.

Child labour in the country

1263. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state what is the number of child labour in the country, if so, what steps have been taken to prevent the same?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): According to the projections made by the Planning Commission the labour force in the age group 5-14 years in the country, as on 1st March, 1985 was 17.58 million. Government have taken the following measures to reduce and gradually eliminate child labour:—

(i) The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 has been enacted to prohibit the employment of children below 14 years of age in certain hazardous employments.

(ii) A National Child Labour Policy has been announced which, *inter alia*, proposes to set-up projects to benefit child workers in areas of high child labour concentration. The projects among other things provide for withdrawal of child workers from hazardous employments and giving them the benefits of non-formal education, health care, vocational training, nutrition etc., and raising the income levels of their families.

(iii) Grants-in-aid are given to voluntary organisations to take up projects to benefit child workers.

Slow progress of urbanisation in the country

1264. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government took note of the Aid India Consortium's Comments that India's urbanisation has been very slow reflecting the dismal shift in employment patterns; and

(b) if so what are the steps contemplated to redress the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha

Bauxite Mining project of the Bharat Aluminium company at Gandhamardhan hill in Orissa

1265. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether mining project of the Bharat Aluminium Company at Gandhamardhan Hill in Orissa is in trouble due to the attitude of the Orissa Government; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to end the controversy and to settle matters with the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR) (a) No Sir.

(b) The work on the Project has been held up due to local agitation since December 1985. On the suggestion of the Govt. of Orissa, an expert committee headed by Dr. B. D. Nagchoudhuri was appointed by the Govt. of India. After an in-depth study of the impact of the proposed development of Gandhamardhan Bauxite Project on ecology and environment of the area, the expert committee, *inter alia* recommended that the "bauxite mines in Gandhamardhan Hills be opened with as little de lay as possible." The Commitee also recommended to set up an Environmental Management Authority (E.M.A.) to ensure proper environmental protection measures The E.M.A. has been set up and it has met on three occasions. There is no controversy involving the State Govt. *vis-a-vis* the execution of the Project. Efforts are being made to resume work on the Project with the co-operation of the State Government.

Unauthorised use of scarce Newsprint

1266. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have found unauthorised use of scare newsprint which includes black marketing and falsification of circulation figures by M/s. Indian Express Group of Newspapers; and

(b) if so, the details of the outcome of investigations and the steps taken to prevent such frauds?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) During a check of circulation, some instances of loan of newsprint by one publication of the Group to another have come to the notice of the Government.

(c) Appropriate action as per rules is being considered.

Exploitation of women workers in unorganised sector

1267. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether women in the un-organised sector are being exploited mostly, with maximum work being extracted from them with minimum wages; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government ensure fair wages to these women workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) and (b) The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 (MWA) and the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 (ERA), apply to employments in the unorganised sector as well. While the MWA provides for the fixation and payment of minimum wages in scheduled employments, the ERA provides for the payment of equal wages to men and women for the same work or work of a